lengths of new roads to be opened at both ends, *viz.*, Vellanadi Estate road end to Perur *todu*, about 1½ miles long and from Erumeli to the 1st mile of the Cheruvalli Estate road about 4½ miles long and the portion of the Kanjirapalli-Erumeli road, from Erumeli to Perur *todu* will have to be utilised for the intermediate portion. The estimate has been called for and as soon as it is ready the matter will be taken up.

68. Communications in the Tiruvalla taluk.

MR. K. RAMASWAMI AIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) said that the Market canal at Tiruvalla was not fit for navigation, the chief reasons being its narrowness and shallowness and its bend near the Market landing at Changanachery. Consequently, boats laden with merchandise had to be unloaded at a great distance from the Market landing. In view to remove the difficulties, the member suggested that the Vayalapalli–Mannadattu *todu* connecting the Manipuzha–Peringara river with the Market canal be widened and deepened, thereby rendering it navigable for big country boats used for the transport of goods. The Manipuzha–Peringara river formed the western boundary of the Tiruvalla taluk and it was along that river that boats coming from Cochin, Alleppey, Kottayam, etc., were taken to Chengannur, Kozhenchery and other places. The canal will facilitate the passage of boats along the Tiruvalla Market canal. Moreover, commodities could be carried from the Tiruvalla market to the Changanachery market which is held a day after the Tiruvalla fair. The total length of the canal would be only three quarters of a mile.

The Vallipalam- Perumpalam *todu* passed through the centre of the Tiruvalla town. But, in spite of its central position, it was not fit for navigation nor could its water be used by the people for drinking or bathing purposes during the summer season. The canal could be made useful if a bund be constructed across the Kadalimangalam river just below the Chakrasala *kadavu* thereby obstructing the free flow of water westward along the river, and diverting it along the canal above referred to. One other advantage of the proposal was the prevention of Manipuzha-Peringara river from being silted up.

The Muttar-Kavumbhagam road was an important road in the Tiruvalla taluk used by many people for journeying to and from Kottayam, Changanachery and other places. The road badly needed improvements which should be carried out and a bridge constructed at Sri Narayanapurattu *kadavu*.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Ramaswami Aiyar, all these three proposals of yours require careful investigation which the Chief Engineer will undertake.

69. Reform of the Ayurveda Department.

MR. M. S. NANU (*Member, Nominated*) said that, although the Ayurvedic system of treatment under Government's auspices was introduced in the State about 51 years ago, the Ayurveda Department had not been brought into a satisfactory working order. The reforms introduced in the department had been very slow. In 1051, an Ayurvedic *vaidyan* was first appointed by the Government in Trivandrum. In 1064, certain *vaidyans* were awarded grants-in-aid. The Ayurveda School was established in 1065; but it was only in 1096 that it was raised to the status of a college. It was only about the year 1090 that a separate department was formed; but since then no appreciable progress had been made in the development of that department. A complete reform of the department was therefore absolutely necessary.

Taking the case of the Ayurveda College first, the member said that the Ayurveda School and the Sanskrit College, both of which were institutions of close resemblance, were established in about the same year. In 1068, the minimum pay of a teacher in the Ayurveda School was Rs. 10 and that of a teacher in the Sanskrit College was Rs. 7, while the maximum pay in each was Rs. 20. Since then revisions of pay had been effected in both the institutions; but while the pay of teachers in the Sanskrit College was enhanced to four or five times their original pay, the pay of the *pandits* in the Ayurveda College was not proportinately enhanced. The principles adopted by the Salaries Committee in revising the pay of the officers of the several departments were not applied to the Ayurveda Department, except in the case of the clerical staff. The *pandits* in the Ayurveda College with their meagre salary found it difficult to

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make both ends meet especially as the cost of living had increased by leaps and bounds. Consequently, duly qualified *pandits* were not coming forward to take up appointments in the College. The pay of the *pandits* should, therefore, be revised and fixed as in the case of *pandits* in the Sanskrit College. The *pandit* in charge of the Principal's duties should be given a separate allowance in addition to his pay.

Similarly, the pay of the *vaidyans* in the department also needed revision. There were fourteen men with technical qualifications in the department. Their minimum pay was Rs. 12 and the maximum Rs. 50 per mensem. Formerly, there were two Inspectors of *Vaidyasalas* and the minimum pay of their appointment was Rs. 60 per mensem. Each inspecting officer had only about 25 *vaidyasalas* under his jurisdiction. But subsequently, the two places were abolished and an Inspector, the maximum pay of whose appointment was Rs. 50, was appointed with jurisdiction over the whole State, containing about 120 *vaidyasalas*. Similarly, the maximum pay of the chief *vaidyan* was only Rs. 50. Prior to the year 1092, there were a Superintendent on Rs. 75-100, a *vaidyan* on Rs. 50, an Assistant Superintendent on Rs. 60 and *pandits* on Rs. 40, 30 and 20 in the Ayurveda *Patasala*. A duly qualified *vaidyan* could in those days aspire to the place on Rs. 75-100. The subsequent revision resulting in the reduction of pay and appointments in the department was, however, a retrograde step.

Ayurveda was a difficult subject that had to be analytically studied and applied with great care. Proper attention should, therefore, be paid to the admission of students in the Ayurveda College. Under the existing rules, pupils who did not pass even the 4th standard in a Malayalam school were freely admitted. That was wrong. The rules regarding the admission of students to the College should be defined and enforced. Only those who had passed the *Sastri*, *Vidvan* or other equivalent examination in Sanskrit should be admitted into the College.

There were no facilities in the Ayurveda College for teaching surgery to the male students and midwifery to the women students. That was a grave disadvantage. Arrangements should, therefore, be made for teaching the above subjects.

For the proper training of students in the College, a garden containing all the medicinal herbs and a museum containing specimens of articles of medicine were absolutely necessary. They should be opened without delay.

Ayurveda High Schools were gradually springing up in several parts of the State. There were already 4 grant-in-aid schools. The curricula of studies in those schools were the same as in the Ayurveda College, but the method of teaching adopted in them was defective and consequently the knowledge acquired by the pupils was imperfect. It was better to have a small number of perfect *vaidyans* than to have a large number of imperfect *vaidyans*. The policy of increasing the Ayurveda schools should be put a stop to and the standard of the existing schools should be raised to that of the Ayurveda College.

In the Ayurveda Hospital at Trivandrum, more than 30,000 patients were being treated annually but the staff of the hospital consisted only of a chief *vaidyan* on Rs. 40, an assistant *vaidyan* on Rs. 25, and two compounders. There were only 8 beds for the treatment of in-patients. Those were quite inadequate especially in a town like Trivandrum, the capital of the State. In Madura, the pay of the chief *vaidyan* was Rs. 300 and that of his assistant Rs. 150. In view to improve the usefulness of the hospital, the pay of the chief *vaidyan* should be fixed at least at the maximum pay of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the Medical Department *viz.*, Rs. 100. The pay of the other members and the strength of the staff should also be enhanced. The number of beds for in-patients should also be raised to at least 24. Mofussil hospitals on the model of the hospital at Trivandrum should be opened. Two hospitals in each of the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions and one hospital each in South Travancore and the Devicolam Division with a pharmacy attached to each should be newly opened. The pay of the *vaidyan* in each of those hospitals should be fixed at Rs. 70 per mensem. In course of time the area containing

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each hospital and the *vaidyasalas* in the neighbourhood might be constituted into a district and the *vaidyan* entrusted with the duty of inspecting the *vaidyasalas*. The hospitals would also be of immense benefit of the pupils of the Ayurveda High Schools in the neighbourhood.

The grants-in-aid awarded to the *vaidyans* were low, ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30. In 1071, the maximum amount of grant was Rs. 35. For the proper maintenance of a *vaidyasala*, a sum of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 was required according to local conditions, proficiency and popularity of the *vaidyans*, number of patients frequenting the *vaidyasalas*, etc. The grants-in-aid should, therefore, be enhanced so as to range between Rs. 25 and Rs. 50 or, in the alternative, grants should be of three classes *viz.*, Rs. 50, Rs. 35 and Rs. 25. In the case of *visha-vaidyasalas*, the whole amount required for the maintenance of ordinary *vaidyasalas* should be awarded as grants.

In the year 1071, when rules regarding the management of *vaidyasalas* were first passed, the number of *vaidyasals* was not fixed. The only limitation imposed was that one *vaidyasala* should be at least 2 miles away from another. But in a Government order recently issued, the Government fixed the maximum number of *vaidyasalas* at 120, calculated at one *vaidyasala* for every four *pakuthies*. Of these, 113 had already been opened, leaving only 7 more to be newly opened. They were insufficient. The number should be gradually increased at the rate of 10 per annum till each *pakuthi* got one *vaidyasala*.

The students passing out of the Ayurveda College, Trivandrum, would be duly qualified *vaidyans* and better than any *vaidyan* passing out of a college elsewhere. As regards the instruction imparted in the college, Mahamahopadyaya Kaviraja Gananatha Sen had recorded his opinion that it was perfect. Such being the case, only *vaidyans* passing out of the college should be given grants. Again, in appointing *vaidyans*, only persons having local experience and acquainted with local conditions should be selected.

Lastly, in all civilized countries, there was legislation for the guidance of professional men and for the exercise of their professional skill. There was no such legislation in Travancore in regard to the medical profession. Consequently, great havoc was caused by quack doctors and irresponsible *vaidyans*. Legislation should soon be undertaken prohibiting the practice of quacks and sale of medicines by irresponsible persons.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Nanu, I am afraid the Government cannot either agree to the general enhancement of salaries that you recommend or accept as valid the comparisons on which you base your proposals. There are already certain rules for testing the qualifications of the students admitted to the college and preference is generally given to those who have some knowledge of Malayalam and Sanskrit and in some cases a knowledge of English also. It is not possible to open a surgical and midwifery side to the present Ayurveda College ; and it is not possible to increase the number of colleges because, as it is, there are not more than 50 students now on its rolls. Your suggestion regarding the opening of a garden for growing medical herbs will be borne in mind ; in fact, it came to my notice once before. The Government will consider it.

The other points will be noted and considered.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-5 P. M. to met again at 11-30 A. M. on Saturday, the 26th February, 1927.

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